

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)Q79698
U.S. Application No.: 10/796,167

REMARKS

Formalities

With this Amendment, claims 9 and 10 are cancelled. Therefore, claims 1, 3-8, 11, and 12 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1 and 8 are amended, as shown to recite features of Applicants' invention as disclosed in the specification. Claims 3, 7, and 12 are amended in accordance therewith.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 3, and 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Arquilevich (U.S. 2002/0060709) in view of Endo (U.S. 2002/0085057). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Arquilevich in view of Endo and Yuji (JP 05-330088). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Arquilevich in view of Endo and Boleda (U.S. 6,331,038). Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Arquilevich in view of Endo and Bruch (U.S. 2002/0151767).

Claim 9 is cancelled, as indicated above.

Regarding claim 1, Applicants submit that Arquilevich fails to teach or obviate: "wherein said deviation is measured based on an interval in said sub-scanning direction between loci drawn by at least one nozzle of each of a first nozzle array and a second nozzle array which are not adjacent to each other in said main scanning direction among said plurality of nozzle arrays

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in said measurement step; and wherein said at least one nozzle of said first nozzle array and said at least one nozzle of said second nozzle array are located at different positions in said sub-scanning direction in said ejection step.” In fact, Arquilevich fails to describe any specific nozzle array from which ink is ejected.

Similarly Arquilevich fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 8 or claim 9¹.

The Examiner asserts that Boleda discloses measuring a distance between ink ejected from a first nozzle array and ink ejected from a second nozzle array and determining a position deviation based on the measured distance. The portion of Boleda to which the Examiner refers (col. 5, lines 35-55) describes ejecting ink from pen primitives, which are groups of nozzles in a pen column. A distance is measured between ink drops ejected from nozzles that are a distance d apart. However, there is no description in Boleda that the nozzles from which the ink is ejected are of different nozzle arrays and are located at different positions in a sub-scanning direction.

¹ See e.g., claim 8: “a correcting unit for correcting a recording position of an ink dot to be recorded on said material for each of said plurality of nozzles based on an interval in a sub-scanning direction, caused by a tilt of the recording head, between loci drawn by at least one nozzle of each of the first nozzle array and the second nozzle array which are not adjacent to each other in the main scanning direction;

wherein said at least one nozzle of said first nozzle array and said at least one nozzle of said second nozzle array are located at different positions in said subscanning direction.”

claim 9: “a correction function of correcting a recording position of an ink dot to be recorded on said material for each of said plurality of nozzles based on an interval in a sub-scanning direction, caused by the tilt of the recording head, between loci drawn by at least one nozzle of each of the first nozzle array and the second nozzle array which are not adjacent to each other in said main scanning direction, wherein said at least one nozzle of said first nozzle array and said at least one nozzle of said second nozzle array are located at different positions in said sub-scanning direction.”

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Similarly, none of Endo, Yuji, and Bruch remedy these deficiencies of Arquilevich and Boleda.

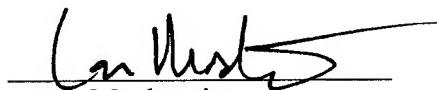
Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 8 are patentable over the cited references and that claims 3-7, 11, and 12 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



Laura Moskowitz
Registration No. 55,470

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
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